

Today's Topics:

ARRL
ARRL NR 71: OSCAR 13 PROBLEMS
ARRL PFB NR 41
Heathkit SG-8 Info wanted
Help! SWL in Africa
How to avoid breaking tuning slugs in coils?
OMEGA enlarger info
Sony Hi-Band opinions/info wanted
Water Power
WEFAX (2 msgs)

Date: 10 Oct 89 13:47:42 GMT

From: cvman!gdelong@decvax.dec.com (Gary DeLong)

Subject: ARRL

In article <221@ssc.UUCP>, tad@ssc.UUCP (Tad Cook) writes:

[... deleted ...]

> If you quit the league over this, how can you influence league policy
> in the future to further your interests in microwaves?

> Tad Cook

They have proven to me that they don't care what Amateur Radio operators within and without their organization think.

When I was first licensed (many moons ago) I joined the ARRL primarily as a source of technical information on the state of the art and secondly to try to support the advancement of amateur radio.

When I discovered that the only technical data I could get from them was obsolete and that the ARRL was not interested in the advancement of the state of the art, but only in holding the status quo I decided to save my money.

I have yet to see ARRL support any advance in the state of the art. They only get involved in new technology when it's so old your best source of supply is flea markets. Witness how long it took them to "bless" SSB, VHF, FM, UHF, SHF, PACKET, and on and on.

If it had been left to the ARRL, we'd be limited to AM & CW at 20 meters and below. (with no provisions above 20 mtrs) Witness "Incentive Licensing" where the primary benefit is larger CW bands.

When I think of the ARRL, I think of CW/CBers. 8-^

While there is some exaggeration in the above, I feel the ARRL does not represent Amateur Radio operators in the US, they only represent a fraction of their own membership. Why should I, or anyone else, support a group that does not support us?

73, Gary

--

```

/-----/
| \ / | Gary A. Delong, N1BIP "I am the NRA." gdelong@cvman.prime.com
| \ / | COMPUTERVISION Division {sun|linus}!cvbnet!gdelong
|____\| Prime Computer, Inc. (603) 622-1260 x 261

```

Date: 11 Oct 89 11:46:53 GMT
From: n8emr!gws@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (Gary Sanders)
Subject: ARRL NR 71: OSCAR 13 PROBLEMS

=====
| Relayed from packet radio via |
| N8EMR's Ham BBS, 614-457-4227 (1200/2400/19.2 telebit,8N1) |
=====

ARRL BULLETIN NR 71 ARLB071
OCTOBER 10, 1989

ON OCTOBER 9, THE OSCAR 13 ONBOARD COMPUTER CRASHED AND SWITCHED THE TRANSPONDER TO MODE L BEACON MODE. CURRENT SQUINT ANGLES MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO UPLOAD THE IHU SOFTWARE. HOPEFULLY TRANSPONDER OPERATIONS CAN RESUME THIS WEEKEND. NO TRANSPONDER OPERATION IS ALLOWED UNTIL SPACECRAFT OPERATIONS ARE FULLY RESTORED.

STAY TUNED FOR ADDITIONAL BULLETINS FROM AMSAT DL AND W1AW FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

--

Gary W. Sanders (gws@n8emr or ...!osu-cis!n8emr!gws), 72277,1325
N8EMR @ W8CQK (ip addr) 44.70.0.1 [Ohio AMPR address coordinator]
HAM/SWL/SCANNER BBS (1200/2400/PEP) 614-457-4227

Date: 11 Oct 89 11:45:53 GMT
From: n8emr!gws@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (Gary Sanders)
Subject: ARRL PFB NR 41

=====
| Relayed from packet radio via |
| N8EMR's Ham BBS, 614-457-4227 (1200/2400/19.2 telebit,8N1) |
=====

ARRL PFB NR 41 (ARLP041) 10/10/89

THROUGH THE LAST HALF OF SEPTEMBER AND THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER THE SOLAR FLUX WAS RUNNING MOSTLY LOWER THAN IT HAD BEEN IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. THIS DID NOT AFFECT PROPAGATION BADLY, AS WE ARE NOW JUST ENTERING THE BEST PART OF THE YEAR FOR DX WORK FROM OUR PART OF THE WORLD.

THE SOLAR FLUX RANGE OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAS BEEN ABOUT RIGHT FOR GOOD PROPAGATION ON ALL HF BANDS UP THROUGH 21 MHZ. IF THE SUN BEHAVES AS EXPECTED, 21 MHZ AND HIGHER BANDS, INCLUDING 50 MHZ, WILL IMPROVE THE MOST THIS FALL. SKIP WILL SHORTEN MARKEDLY ON THE LOWER FREQUENCIES, A CONDITION THAT HAS MADE CONVENTIONAL HF TRAFFIC HANDLING DIFFICULT IN THE HIGH YEARS OF PREVIOUS SOLAR CYCLES.

THE THOUSANDS OF NEWCOMERS WHO HAVE FILLED THE 282 TO 285 MHZ PORTION OF THE 10 METER BAND RECENTLY WILL FIND IT OPEN TO ALMOST EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN NOVEMBER AND EARLY DECEMBER. FOR QUITE RELIABLE INFORMATION ON WHAT FREQUENCY RANGES TO USE FOR VARIOUS PATHS AND TIMES OF DAY, USE THE PROPAGATION CHARTS THAT APPEAR IN EVERY EDITION OF QST.

AMERICAN SUNSPOT NUMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER 28 THROUGH NOVEMBER 4 WERE BETWEEN 131 AND 206 WITH A MEAN OF 174.6 AR

--

Gary W. Sanders (gws@n8emr or ...!osu-cis!n8emr!gws), 72277,1325
N8EMR @ W8CQK (ip addr) 44.70.0.1 [Ohio AMPR address coordinator]
HAM/SWL/SCANNER BBS (1200/2400/PEP) 614-457-4227

Date: Wed, 11 Oct 89 09:51:36 EST
From: "Mike Jordan G4ASQ" <JORDAN@LL.LL.MIT.EDU>
Subject: Heathkit SG-8 Info wanted

About 6 months ago I got a Heath SG-8 rf sig. gen. from a hamfest. When I tried it out at home, I found it didn't oscillate on the low frequency end of the top 3 bands. I presumed this was a low-gain problem (High C with the same L implies low Q & low gain). The tube was a 12AU7 twin triode. Last week I got a replacement from another Hamfest. It turned out to be a 12AU7A. Works fine on all

but the highest freq. band, where it doesn't work at all...

Do any of you old-timers out there still have a handbook with receiving tube data & can tell me what the difference between the various 'flavours' of 12AU7 are? I would also really like to get my hands on a photocopy of the manual, or the schematic at least - so I can see what Heath originally recommended. Anyone willing to supply copies pse E-mail direct - I will of course pay the costs. Maybe I should just reduce the supply voltage & replace the triodes with FETs - a winter project maybe...

Thanks & 73s

Mike < JORDAN at LL.LL.MIT.EDU >

Date: 11 Oct 89 05:21:06 GMT
From: portal!cup.portal.com!J_STEPHEN_HALL@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Help! SWL in Africa

Hi,

I would like to say I'm sorry ahead of time if I am posting in the wrong place....

I have a cousin who will be doing graduate studies in a rather primitive area of Africa for 6 months starting in January.

She is very interested in a small short-wave radio that can be used to pick up the VOA and the BBC. She doesn't want to DX at all, just hear some sounds from home.

I offered my GE World Monitor for her use, she laughed. It is much to large and takes 6 "D-Size" batteries.

What she is looking for is a small radio that will work well with Nicads and a small solar-recharger that will allow her to listen to the VOA or BBC every other day.

She is willing to spend up to \$250. Can it be done?

Many thanks,
Steve

.....
/ UUCP: ucbvax!sun!portal!cup.portal.com!j_stephen_hall
/ ARPANET and INTERNET domains please use:
/ portal!j_stephen_hall%cupertino.pcc@suncom
/SYSOP: The 19th Hole (Fido 1:137/208) (813) 378-5602, Sarasota, Florida

.....

Date: 11 Oct 89 12:49:41 GMT
From: brian@ucsd.edu (Brian Kantor)
Subject: How to avoid breaking tuning slugs in coils?

Back in the old days (AHHHG! OLD FART ALERT) when I was tuning up Motorola T44 on 450 MHZ, I used to break about 1 tuning slug in 5 - I remember being told that Moto's reconditioning program included sloshing the radio with some sort of solvent that caused the coil form wax to harden after a few months, locking the slug in place. These also were the kind of slugs that had a bronze springwire lengthwise to ensure that they didn't vibrate out of adjustment when the radio was shaken to death by being installed on the firewall of a concrete mixer.

Anyway, removing the coil can (when possible) and blasting the coil with a hair dryer to soften the wax would often loosen the slug enough that you could get it out, then dip it into talcum powder to lubricate it, and return it to the coil form and tweak it up.

When the slug DID break, you ran an electric drill down the center hole of the slug, which turned it into crunchy little bits that were easy to shake out by banging the radio on the concrete floor.

Of course, this was back in the days of real radios, before rice rockets and the day the ARRL invented FM. Modern ham-market stuff is a bit less well-engineered and would probably shatter into a thousand bits if you banged it on the garage floor. I sure wouldn't try it with my Kenwierd. But then you could drive a car over a Motorola radio without hurting it. And they cleaned up real nice when you ran them through the dishwasher.

The hair dryer trick works great on rice rocket radios too, but since the Japanese manufacturers often use gobbets of wax to hold components onto the board, you have to fit the blower with a small snout (off an oil can, for example) to avoid total radiophonic meltdown when you're loosening a slug to twiddle it.

Another trick is to just stick your soldering iron tip into the coil slug for a few seconds to heat it up.

But the real trick is to use the right tuning tool. If your diddlestick fits the slot or hex in the slug just firmly, and doesn't slop around, you run a much better chance of turning the slug instead of breaking it. I have a quiver of about 20 diddlesticks and I still

occasionally run into slugs that I don't have the right one for. Most hams are cheapshitbastards, but spending \$10-\$20 on an assortment of good quality diddlesticks is one of those investments you'll always regret not having made.

Assuming you're not afraid to take the covers off and work on your own equipment, of course. I wonder how many hams have even LOOKED inside their radios?

- Brian

Date: 10 Oct 89 15:16:56 GMT
From: rti!tijk02!jkl141@mcnc.org (John Leroy)
Subject: OMEGA enlarger info

My wife and I have obtained a used OMEGA enlarger at a swapfest, she to make black and white prints, myself to make contact prints of circuit board layouts. But the thing is partially disassembled, and there's no manual. It's a model B-22 enlarger, s/n 848815. It says SIMON OMEGA, Woodside, NY 11377 on the nameplate, but a call to directory assistance yields no number. Anyone out there have a manual or know where I can obtain one? Thanks!

John
...mcnc!rti!tijk02!jkl141

--

-John LeRoy

Packet Radio: WA4VLV @ WX4S
Compuserve: 74136,401
UUCP: rti!tijk02!jkl141
Phone: 615-461-2440

Date: Wed, 11 Oct 89 08:09:42 MDT
From: jimkirk@CORRAL.UWyo.Edu (Jim Kirkpatrick)
Subject: Sony Hi-Band opinions/info wanted

A friend was recently in a store where he saw a Sony Hi-Band, S/W AM/FM hand-held receiver. I tried looking through all of 1989's Info-HAMS to no avail, so unless this is in fact also known by some other designation, I'd like to solicit any opinions and/or info on this unit. E-mail to me and I'll summarize later. Thanks in advance.

Date: Wed, 11 Oct 89 08:45:15 EST
From: bill gunshannon <702WFG%SCRVMSYS.BITNET@CORNELLC.cit.cornell.edu>
Subject: Water Power

Back in my youth I got interested in water power after reading an article in Popular Science (remember when that was a high tech rag).

They explained the whole thing from start to finish including giving the addresses of companies that sold small Hydro-Electric generators.

It wasn't till much later that I learned why no one does it. It seems that there is not enough flow or control in a free running stream, hence the reason for things like Boulder Dam. And that of course brings up the major stumbling block.

It seems there is this real estate law called riparian (sp) rights which says you can't block or impede the flow of any stream or body of water that flows thru your property. Kind of puts the skids to any kind of private hydro generating station. I have had it explained to me by local authorities that even putting a water wheel into the stream can be construed as "impeding the flow". That may vary from locality-to-locality but at least here, I probably could not legally generate my own electricity using water.

And of course, wind power is a whole new ball game. You thought your neighbors hated the sight of your antenna. :-) :-) :-)

bill gunshannon KB3YV
702wfg@SCRVMSYS.BITNET

Date: 10 Oct 89 18:48:10 GMT
From: mintaka!olive!pyramid!infmtx!marc@bloom-beacon.mit.edu (Marc Kenig)
Subject: WEFAX

In article <963@qip.UUCP> bobm@qip.UUCP (Bob Maccione) writes:

>I'm trying to get information on picking up weather maps on the HF band,
>what i'd like to do is either dump them to a printer or just store them
>in my computer....

>

>Thanks in advance for any help --- (no flames, i'm new at HAM)

>

Since this is an oft asked question I am posting my oft-sent answer about the virtues of PC HF Facsimile from Software Systems Consulting. I have no connection with this company, I'm just a satisfied customer.

PC HF FACSIMILE 4.0 is a \$99.00 IBM-PC compatible hardware/software package. For your money you get a demodulator (an RS232 hood with wires ending in a mini-phone plug), a disk containing capture program, a manual, and a

tutorial cassette.

>From my experience it works very well. The Demodulator attaches and is powered by the PC's serial port. Installation involves plugging it into the radio and the PC. Dead simple (assuming you have a serial port). The software must be customized for your PC. You have to chose which flavor graphics adaptor you have (CGA, EGA, VGA, etc). You must also define timing parameters depending on you PC's clocking - this is the trickiest part I found.

The program allows color or B&W reception of 60/120/180/240 LPM fax. It includes a rudimentary tuning scope display which allows you to set Black and White signal levels. You can zoom, pan, reverse video fax images. You can save and load from disk, and there is an unattended mode which allows you to specify a template file name to which subsequent faxes will be sent (each has a version number appended to the root file name). The program supports Epson printers and HP laser jets for output, and there is a conversion program included which allows you to change stored faxes to some PC graphics file format or other.

The manual is quite good and has a reasonable listing of WEFAX freqs. The tutorial cassette is OK if you don't know what a fax broadcast sounds like, but you can't capture images off tape, so it's useless for setup.

I use this package with my Sony 2010 & get good results, *suprise* (with an active antenna). I can get WEFAX from Pt. Reyes (shooting ducks in a barrel), Hawaii and Virginia *acceptably*. I do wish I had a better radio and antenna, since you can't expect much from FAX DXing under the best circumstances. You need to shield the radio from the computer as much as possible and connect them to a common ground to reduce noise from the computer degrading transission. I've logged Japanese newspapers and even a NX wire pic (barely), using the other modes.

I don't expect this package will stand up against the like of a PK-232, but hey, it's 1/3 the price and if you just want WX maps, it'll do. For info contact:

Software Systems Consulting, 1303 S. Ola Vista, San Clemente, CA 92672
(714) 498-5784

Spend the money you save on getting a better radio :-) and an antenna tuner, you'll really need it.

Marc Kenig
VMS Engineering Manager
Informix Software, Inc.
...!pyramid!infmtx!marc

beeeeeeeeeeeeeep

This has been a test of the Emergency Personal Opinion Broadcasting System. By voluntary cooperation of Usenet machines in your area, this mindless drive1 has been propogated throughout the world. Had you wanted an actual opinion, you would have been advised to tune into the marketing hype of my employer. We now resume normal drive1, already in progress.

Date: 11 Oct 89 13:29:57 GMT
From: att!cbnewsj!newsman@ucbvax.Berkeley.EDU (john.ferro..jr)
Subject: WEFAX

You might want to try a fax package from a place in California called Software Systems Consulting. I do not have their number or address at present but it can be found in Popular Communications magazine. For about \$100.00 you get software, demodulator and instructions. The package will run with IBM PC, XT, AT or truly IBM compatible machines.

Have Fun,

MTX5D!JJF

End of INFO-HAMS Digest V89 Issue #755
